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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/578,277	05/05/2006	Harald Fink	03H26US	2766

7590 03/29/2011  
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EXAMINER
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SMITH, COURTNEY L

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2835

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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03/29/2011

PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/578,277	<b>Applicant(s)</b> FINK, HARALD	
	<b>Examiner</b> COURTNEY SMITH	<b>Art Unit</b> 2835	

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --**

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 May 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 05 May 2006 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)          | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)           |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____                                      |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)          | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____  | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                          |

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Claim Objections*

1. Claim(s) 2, 5-7, are objected to because of the following informalities: Regarding Claim 2; 'and 1 power switch' is unclear since '1 power switch' is already asserted in claim 1. Regarding Claim 5; 'the isolator' is unclear since 'isolators' is already asserted in claim 4. Regarding Claim 7; 'vacuum chambers' is unclear since only one vacuum chamber is asserted in claim 5, and thus the preamble of 'one of the preceding claims' shall also be corrected. Going further, 'the switches' in claim 7 is unclear since the applicant has not asserted which of the switches are being referred to; whereas the base claim(s) comprise a variety of switch types. Appropriate correction is required.

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102*

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. **Claims 1-7**, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by **(Takahashi EP 1020970A1)**.

**Regarding Claim 1; Takahashi** discloses a medium-voltage switchgear assembly having at least two switch panels, characterized in that at least 1 load switch panel (each portion 2) and 1 power switch panel (Backgorund-0005--where 3 switches power

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from outside transmission lines and three branch conductors 6) are arranged jointly or compartmentalized from one another within a switchgear assembly enclosure (1-Fig. 34), and in that both the load switch panel and the power switch panel are designed with a vacuum switch (where each vacuum chamber 9 comprises a switch).

**Regarding Claim 2; Takahashi** discloses the medium-voltage switchgear assembly as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that 2 load switch panels (as already disclosed in claim 1) and 1 power switch panel are arranged in the switchgear assembly (as depicted by Fig. 34).

**Regarding Claim 3; Takahashi** discloses the medium-voltage switchgear assembly as claimed in claim 1 or 2, characterized in that the interior of the switchgear assembly enclosure is filled with insulating gas (insulating gas--Background 0010).

**Regarding Claim 4; Takahashi** discloses the medium-voltage switchgear assembly as claimed in one of the preceding claims, characterized in that isolators (10a, 10b, and/or 10c) are arranged within the switchgear assembly enclosure.

**Regarding Claim 5; Takahashi** discloses the medium-voltage switchgear assembly as claimed in claim 4, characterized in that the isolators is or are in the form of a switch or switches with a vacuum chamber (wherein at least 10a forms a switch at 3 with the vacuum chamber 9).

**Regarding Claim 6; Takahashi** discloses the medium-voltage switchgear assembly as claimed in claim 5, characterized in that the isolators is or are in the form of a three-position vacuum switch or switches (three position--Background--0006).

**Regarding Claim 7; Takahashi** discloses the medium-voltage switchgear assembly as claimed in one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the switches and/or the vacuum chambers are surrounded by solid insulation (wherein 9 is otherwise characterized by Fig. 31, where 105a is a insulation portion surrounding the switches).

### ***Conclusion***

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

US 7457105 B2	Kikukawa; Shuuichi et al.	Fig. 1a
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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to COURTNEY SMITH whose telephone number is (571)272-9094. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 7:30 am-5 pm (1st Fri. off).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jayprakash Gandhi can be reached on 571-272-3740. The fax phone

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number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/COURTNEY SMITH/  
Examiner, Art Unit 2835